

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Senators Brinks, Nesbitt, Albert, Anthony, Bayer, Bellino, Bumstead, Camilleri, Cavanagh, Chang, Cherry, Daley, Damoose, Geiss, Hauck, Hertel, Hoitenga, Huizenga, Irwin, Johnson, Klinefelt, Lauwers, Lindsey, McBroom, McCann, McMorrow, Moss, Outman, Polehanki, Runestad, Santana, Shink, Singh, Theis, Victory, Webber and Wojno offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for
2 Darwin Booher, former member of the Michigan Senate and Michigan
3 House of Representatives.

4 Whereas, It was with great sorrow that the members of the
5 Legislature learned about the passing of Darwin Booher. He will be
6 remembered as a dedicated public servant by his constituents in
7 northwest Michigan and the people of our great state; and

8 Whereas, Darwin Booher was born in 1942 at Rohen's Maternity
9 House in Ewart, Michigan. He remained in Ewart for much of his

1 life, graduating from Ewart High School in 1961. Darwin furthered
2 his education by graduating from the University of Wisconsin School
3 of Banking and the Michigan Assessors School; and

4 Whereas, Darwin wore many different hats during his life.
5 Before starting his political career, he spent more than four
6 decades in the banking industry. He worked his way up the corporate
7 ladder, starting off as a vault teller and eventually becoming the
8 vice president of First National Bank, which later became Citizens
9 Bank; and

10 Whereas, Outside of Darwin's success in the corporate world,
11 he maintained a strong and steadfast passion for agriculture.

12 Darwin, whose family runs a seventh-generation family farm in
13 Ewart, loved working the land and getting his hands dirty, and was
14 always willing to talk about anything related to agriculture. In
15 2018, Darwin was inducted into the Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover
16 Society, which honors former 4-H members for their leadership; and

17 Whereas, During his life, Darwin was also a dedicated public
18 servant. He served as the Osceola Township supervisor and assessor
19 for 28 years. In 2004, he was elected to the House of
20 Representatives where he served three terms representing the One
21 Hundred-second District, before being elected to the Senate to
22 represent the Thirty-fifth District. He would serve in the Senate
23 until 2018. During his time in the Legislature, Darwin utilized his
24 knowledge, experience, and humor to serve on and lead a number of
25 committees. This included serving as the chair of the Senate
26 Committee on Banking and Financial Institutions, the Senate
27 Appropriations subcommittees on Capital Outlay and Community
28 Colleges, and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Community
29 Colleges. He also served on many other committees including the

1 Senate committees on Appropriations, Agriculture, Education, and
2 Infrastructure Modernization, and the House committees on
3 Appropriations and Banking and Financial Services. He additionally
4 served on the Senate Appropriations subcommittees on General
5 Government, the Department of Community Health, the Department of
6 Environmental Quality, and Natural Resources, as well as the House
7 Appropriations subcommittees on the Department of Natural
8 Resources, Joint Capital Outlay, Community Colleges, Human
9 Services, Special Governmental Operations, Investigations, and
10 Intergovernmental Affairs and Oversight. Moreover, Darwin was
11 recognized by his colleagues when he was elected the Senate
12 assistant majority caucus whip; and

13 Whereas, Darwin's commitment to his community went beyond
14 elected office. He faithfully served in a number of roles including
15 the Board of Trustees for Spectrum Health, Reed City Campus;
16 charter member of the Ewart Downtown Development Association; the
17 Ewart Local Development Finance Commission; the Ewart Jaycees; the
18 Ewart Historical Society; and the Ewart Chamber of Commerce; and

19 Whereas, Darwin was known to those around him as a true family
20 man, and he was always happiest when he could spend time with his
21 family. He and his wife of more than 60 years, Janice, made their
22 home in Ewart, where they raised four children. His family expanded
23 to include six grandchildren, two step great-grandchildren, and one
24 great-grandson. During their marriage, Darwin and Janice also
25 opened their home to ten exchange students from all around the
26 world; and

27 Whereas, Darwin loved to remain active, even after leaving the
28 Legislature. He always looked forward to traveling, family
29 vacations, and testing his luck at the casino. Darwin loved to be

1 hands-on with his grandchildren, which included teaching them how
2 to drive on farming equipment. This led to more than a few dents,
3 but even more happy memories. Until his last moments, Darwin always
4 put his family first; and

5 Whereas, By those who knew him best, Darwin is remembered as
6 warm, welcoming, curious, and always willing to offer advice. He
7 always remained respectful of others and was committed to serving
8 and working for his constituents to the best of his ability; and

9 Whereas, Upon Darwin Booher's passing, we offer our
10 condolences to his loved ones. His contributions to these chambers
11 and the State of Michigan will be remembered; now, therefore, be it

12 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
13 concurring), That we offer this expression of our highest tribute
14 to honor the memory of Darwin Booher, a member of Michigan's House
15 of Representatives from 2005 to 2010 and the Senate from 2011-2018;
16 and be it further

17 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
18 Booher family as evidence of our lasting esteem for his memory.